



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

No. 162

## *House of Representatives*

### STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN ED CASE OF HAWAII SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

#### CONGRATULATING BORDER PATROL AGENT THOMAS H. NUETZEL ON RECEIVING THE 2005 TOP HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Mr. Speaker, as we continue our commitment to securing our nation's borders, I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to one of our outstanding border patrol agents, a former resident of Kailua, Hawaii and a real ``local boy": Thomas H. Nuetzel.

Today, at the 2005 Commissioner's Annual Awards Ceremony, Tom will receive the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection's Top Humanitarian Award in recognition of his bravery and service. Tom is currently assigned to the Office of Field Operations at the Douglas Port of Entry in Arizona.

In July, while on the way home from dinner, Tom, his wife Dawn, and their two children observed a rollover vehicle accident. The couple stopped to assist the two adults and two young children trapped in the vehicle. The driver told Tom that there were several full gas cans in the trunk of the overturned vehicle. The heavy rainfall, flooding, and severe lightening magnified a critical situation.

Tom and Dawn immediately called Emergency Medical Services. Then, standing in knee-deep water, Dawn kept the passengers calm as Tom extracted each family member through a broken window. The passengers awaited the arrival of EMS in Tom and Dawn's car. All victims of the rollover accident are doing well, thanks to the

selflessness of Tom and Dawn Nuetzel.

Again, I extend a sincere mahalo (thank you) to Tom and Dawn for their act of courage and compassion. I would also like to thank all our border patrol agents that work daily to keep our nation safe and secure.

Mahalo, and aloha!